Sunday, February 21, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 | No. 75



EVEL KNIEVEL ACT Mountain biker Mark Mendiola flies over a boulder on the slopes of Mt. Isarog in Camarines Sur. The bike path in the Caramoan resort boasts a 3-kilometer downhill track and a 4-km cross-country track exclusively for mountain bikers.

More power to Visayas

Luzon grid starts exporting surplus to islands

By Amy R. Remo

THE ROTATING BROWNOUTS IN THE VISAYAS ARE EXpected to ease soon as the Luzon grid begins to export part of its power supply to the islands, according to the private corporation that operates the country's transmission network.

The Luzon grid started exporting power last week, which is why the duration of the rotating brownouts in the Visayas have lessened, said the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

"The Luzon grid has enough power to export 120 [megawatts] to 150 MW, which can help augment the power supply in [the] Visayas," said Carlito Claudio, vice president for systems operations at the NGCP which last year took over the task of delivering electricity throughout the archipelago from the state-owned National Transmission Corp. (Transco).

Power supply in the Visayas will further improve next month as the 82-MW unit of the Cebu Energy Development Corp. begins commercial operations, Claudio said in a phone interview.

And to further ensure sufficient power supply in the crucial election period in May, Visayas-based power generation companies have agreed with the NGCP to defer their maintenance repairs two weeks before and

POWER A11

In jail, Lim gets tips on how to run for Senate from Trillanes

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM concerning his senatorial candidacy is not lost on Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

Having been in detention for four years, he knows that voters may have already forgotten him, a decorated, West Point-trained military officer who once demanded the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, his commander in chief.

But another young officer made the same demand during the Oakwood mutiny seven years ago. He reminded voters of it in 2007, when the prevailing sentiment was anti-Arroyo, and went on to become Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

The two men are both detained at the Philippine National Police's Custodial Center in Camp Crame. Lim's cell is across from that of Trillanes', and he is getting key pointers on how to run a nationwide campaign from behind bars.

IN JAIL A11



GUYITO FOUND Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez prepares to pick a winner for the Guyito Wild Hunt 2009 on Friday. The promo, launched on Dec. 9 on the Inquirer's 24th anniversary, drew some one million entries.

Fil-Am officer heads $15-B US military buildup in Guam

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—AS A YOUNG REcruit in the US Navy 30 years ago, the man who would rise to the highest reaches of the world's remaining military superpower, could not have dreamt of the impact he would have on the world.

But Capt. Ulysses Zalamea, 53, the Filipino-American US naval officer in charge of the planning and execution of the $15-billion US military buildup in Guam, would show through his rapid rise soon after he joined the US Navy that he had "the right stuff."

Zalamea said about $1 billion worth of projects are scheduled to be completed or begun this year.

After finishing his training at Recruit Training Command in San Diego, California, he was assigned as enlisted recruiting officer to the US

FIL-AM A8



SHE'S NO LOLA BASYANG but Socorro Ramos, founder and general manager of National Book Store, reading "Matandang Biyola" by "Lola Basyang."

Read-Along: What 'Nanay Coring,' Jon Santos have in common

By Kate V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

A KINGDOM WHERE STORYTELLING IS NOT allowed, a boy who draws only the half of fruits, and a magical violin that makes people dance—these tales enthralled more than a hundred children in yesterday's Read-Along session held at the Inquirer office in Makati City.

Featured readers were National Book Store founder and general manager Socorro "Nanay Coring" Ramos, her granddaughter National

READ-ALONG A6

Tiger: My apology to Elin will come over time

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA—Missing his smile and aura of invincibility, Tiger Woods finally showed his face to a waiting world on Friday (Saturday in Manila) and apologized again for cheating on his wife, without revealing the scope of his infidelity or when he will return to golf.

Standing at a podium before a presidential-blue backdrop in a hushed room of his closest associates, Woods stumbled a few times as he read a 13 1/2-minute statement. He offered no new details of what happened or what's next, except that he was leaving on Saturday for more therapy.

"I have made you question who I am and how I could have done the things I did," Woods said.

Woods' wife, Elin, did not attend his first public appearance since he crashed his car into a tree outside their home three months ago, setting off shocking allegations of rampant extramarital affairs.

"I was unfaithful. I had affairs. I cheated," Woods said. "What I did was not acceptable."

Woods alternately looked into the camera and at the 40 people in the room, raising his voice only to deny that his wife ever hit him and to demand that the paparazzi leave his family alone. Beyond that, there were stretches when Woods—with his formidable business empire—could have

TIGER A11



Ballroom dancing not for the fragile

By Fe Zamora

BALLROOM DANCING MAY BE HAZardous to your health.

There was a chiropractor in the ballroom, just in case a dancer missed a step and got a bone misaligned to the spine.

The presence of Dr. Marc Anton R.

BALLROOM A6

• Noynoy widens lead over Villar by almost 11 points NEWS / A2 • Ballsy, Pinky at PMA Alumni homecoming NEWS / A9
• Vicky Morales and the lotto winner who squandered P80M • Julie Andrews sings again, reports PDI's man in Hollywood
• Dental work, less drastic than cosmetic surgery, prepares young talents for stardom ENTERTAINMENT • Brazilian models: Tall and tan and young, and much, much cheaper; RP's models are up in arms • The 7 top Brazilian models in RP • How to be a Brazilian model or just look like one SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

SIX DIGIT: 3 9 5 9 1 7

P18,678,083.40

POWER LOTTO: 3 17 25 35 52 + 6

P97,703,847.00

Survey: Noynoy leading by 11 points

By Philip C. Tubeza

LIBERAL PARTY (LP) STANDARD-BEARER SEN. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III has a lead over his closest rival, Sen. Manuel Villar, of almost 11 percentage points, according to a survey by an international market research firm.

600 field interviewers

'People want change'

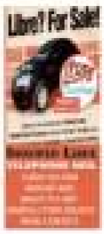
'We'll wait'

'Campaign jankar'

FVR: Presidential bets evading issues in debates

By Cynthia D. Balana







GMA pals all-out for Gibo

Puno: Mistrust, views on rights hinder Asean unity

By Evan Paz Bagan

DOT lists 8.9-M tourists, draws rebuke for mix

Villar: Forgive tillers' debts







THE PUBLIC DESERVES TO KNOW

What the Shell Tax issue is all about

Recently, the public has heard of the issue regarding alleged non-payment by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) of excise taxes for imports of Catalytic Cracked Gasoline (CCG) and light catalytic cracked gasoline (LCCG), amounting to Php 7.35 billion for the years 2004-09. To correct the misleading, inaccurate and wrong statements that have been made regarding this case, PSPC would like to provide the public the facts of the case:

1. "Other Petroleum Firms are paying their excise tax, but not Shell" - This is not true. Shell, like all other petroleum firms, pays excise taxes on all its finished products to the government. From 2004-2009, Shell has paid over P37 billion in excise taxes for its finished products. On the other hand, finished product importers like Chevron, Total, and other independent players pay excise taxes to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) upon importation, but do not pay the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) excise tax on the same finished products before they are sold to the public. The difference then is when and to whom the tax payment is made to, and not the amount. Shell does not pay excise tax to the BOC on CCG/LCCG because like crude oil, these are intermediate or raw materials. However, Shell pays to the BIR excise taxes on all finished products that are produced from the raw materials, before the finished products are sold. There are, therefore, no revenue losses to the government. Finished product importers pay excise tax to BOC, while refiners pay excise tax to BIR.

2. "The position of BOC is that LCCG and CCG is a finished product and that's why (Shell) should resolve and not muddle the issue" - As early as 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE), which is the agency with the technical expertise to determine whether a product is a raw material or a finished product, testified and certified that CCG/LCCG is an intermediate or raw gasoline component that is blended to produce PSPC's gasolines to comply with the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Product National Standards (PNS) specifications will also show that CCG/LCCG do not meet the product specifications requirements, and therefore, cannot be sold as finished products. Even the BOC's Verification Committee admitted that Shell has not sold CCG/LCCG to the public but instead uses it as blending component.

3. "There is fraud on the part of Shell since when they imported the product, they listed them at BOC as gasoline, but when Shell goes to BIR it is declaring the imports as raw material" - This is not true. There is no fraud as we have always stated that CCG/LCCG is a kind of gasoline, but which cannot be used in its current specification and has to be blended with other components to meet the Clean Air Act and PNS standards for gasoline. It is therefore an intermediate or raw material.

4. "Shell is blackmailing the government by threatening to stop importing, shut down their refinery and claiming there will be shortages if BOC seizes their importations" - Shell is not blackmailing the government. We are simply stating the fact that if BOC seizes our importations, we will have no raw materials to run the refinery and no products to sell. As Shell supplies 30% of the market, it will not be easy for the other oil companies to step into the void. We do not want this to happen but for purposes of transparency, we have to let the public and government know the consequences of the BOC's arbitrary action. In fact, even before the 60-day TRO issued by the CTA expired, Batangas Customs Collector Juan Tan attempted to unlawfully use Section 1508 of the Tariff Code to seize PSPC's goods, despite the fact that the shipments of crude oil, CCG and gas oil were already in the possession of PSPC and all taxes have been paid to Customs. Section 1508 does not authorize Customs to seize property or assets of PSPC, but only incoming importations, yet BOC Collector Tan attempted to unlawfully confiscate PSPC's property forcing PSPC to obtain judicial relief from the Regional Trial Court of Batangas.

5. "Shell is getting special treatment by getting tax exemption as a result of the BIR ruling in 2003" - This is not true. As discussed in item 1 above, Shell has been paying all the excise taxes on its finished products. In fact, as a result of BIR Commissioner Joel Tan-Torres' reversal, Shell is now the only oil company paying excise taxes twice starting January 2010! The House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, the lead congressional committee for tax legislation, has issued an official report last January 27, 2010 that found that the Tan-Torres reversal is an imposition of an impermissible act of double taxation on Shell's imports of Catalytic Cracked Gasoline (CCG) and Light Catalytic Cracked Gasoline (LCCG) since it "in effect levies an excise tax twice on CCG and LCCG, first as raw materials upon withdrawal from the port of entry and second as components of a finished product upon withdrawal from PSPC's refinery." The Committee held that the imposition of the said double taxation is "a naked, arbitrary, and whimsical abuse of administrative power by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and a usurpation of the power to tax solely vested in Congress by the Constitution."

We express grave concern on the actions by the BOC and the BIR for the following reasons:

1. The Tan-Torres reversal results in double taxation (the imposition of excise tax on the both the imported raw materials used and in the finished products), which not only puts PSPC in an uneven playing field compared to other oil players, but more importantly:
   A. reflects instability in government policies (with dangerous precedent set due to retroactive application); and
   B. results in a policy implication of discouraging manufacturing investments in the country, destroying the higher value added that the industry contributes.
2. The issue similarly reflects abuse of seizure power against importers on contested tax assessments.

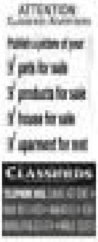
Shell's Business Principles have for many years been fundamental to how we conduct our business and we have always believed that living by them is crucial to our continued success. We believe that our reputation, which we have built and protected for so many decades, will be upheld if we act in accordance with the law and these business principles.

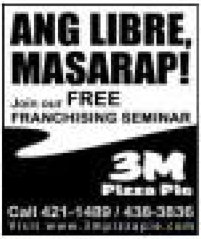
As above, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation maintains that we have paid all taxes on CCG, and that there are no factual and legal bases for saying otherwise. Shell has consistently been in the Top 10 Taxpayers list of the government and over the last 5 years, our annual tax payments has averaged about P 26 billion per year.

Shell will continue to exhaust all available legal remedies for the immediate resolution of this important issue. This issue is important for us, and as part of our business principles, it is also our duty to provide the public with accurate and truthful information, in the spirit of fairness and transparency.

The public deserves to know.

Canadian school ship sinks; RP vessel to rescue









The Daily Gospel

Guam to learn from Subic 'best practices'

Fil-Am officer heads $15-B US military buildup in Guam



Read-Along: What 'Nanay ...



Ballroom dancing not for the fragile

No politics, but candidates still troop to PMA

Hire civilians to handle AFP funds—Abaya

St. James Academy homecoming today

Youth skills meet set




ABENSON
BPI Express Credit



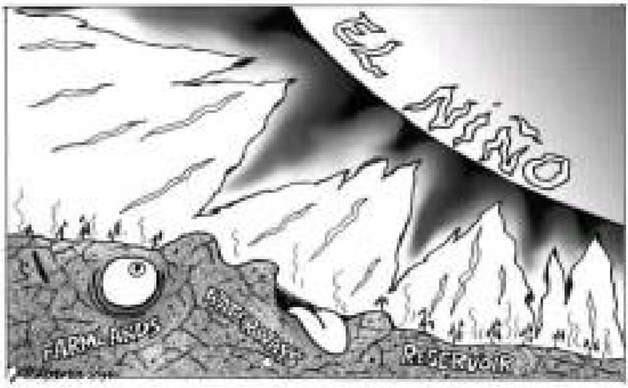
Great
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SHOP FOR APPLIANCES
get an
iPod shuffle
starting at
₱199/mo.
for 12 months
Real Thrills!
ect more great deals!

INQUIRER

OPINION

Too late

EDITORIAL



Philippine Day in Paris

SEPARATE OPINION



Isagani A. Cruz

Playing God

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Divorce, Pinoy style

WITH DUE RESPECT



Artemio V. Panganiban

Badlands

METHOD TO MADNESS



Patricia Evangelista

Valentine's at Marcia Adams

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Is China overplaying its hand?

WORLD VIEW



Chris Patten

Project Syndicate

Erratum

Talk of the Town

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.



PEOPLE power blocks a Marine armor.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDSA I

CHANGE, FAIRY TALES AND EDSA

WHEN I STARTED teaching full-time, most of my students were no longer aware of the first Edsa people power uprising. To me, this was an opportunity to adjust and reinvent my lectures. The undergraduate Philippine history course that I teach ends in 1986, and having a class composed of 19- and 20-year-olds who have no temporal affinity to this year gave me a different challenge.

Interpretations

'Trendsetter'

Same old problems

Redeeming value

Vocabulary of activists

Patronage

A soldier's journey

Promises

Appalling

Partly to blame

Unjust status quo

Land grabbers

Garci tapes, Crame



Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

‘Green army’ to defend trees vs bets

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS is being formed and mobilized to protect trees from candidates with no respect for the environment.

The Save Our Trees Coalition (SOTC) gave national and local candidates until Feb. 24 to remove their election campaign materials on trees along the MacArthur Highway (Manila North Road) or risk being sued for their abuse of the environment.

If the appeal goes unheeded, the SOTC's "green army" of students and artists will start down the materials "without fear or favor" on Feb. 25 as a "meaningful celebration" of the 24th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution, said SOTC spokesperson Cecile Yumul on Saturday.

"Let us be reminded that trees or plants are outside the elections. Let us take a vigilant stand against unlawful and unscrupulous campaign practices in our communities," SOTC's advisory said.

Don't vote for them

Yumul said the group will also ask voters to be "wary of leaders who don't show the least concern for our environment."

So far, she said only supporters and candidates of the Liberal Party in Pampanga removed their party's posters on trees and outside designated areas.

The SOTC successfully lobbied the Department of Public Works and Highways to stop the cutting of almost 9,000 trees in Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac for a road-widening project last year.

Yumul encouraged business chambers, church groups and youth organizations in Central Luzon to initiate efforts to protect trees from the election campaign.

She said SOTC will conduct a similar campaign against candidates who defy the group's appeal to spare the trees.

Undermanned DENR

Ricardo Calderon, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional director, said the agency will try its best to save the trees from campaign materials.

The agency has few personnel available for clearing operations, it was learned.

Temie Lambino, Commission on Elections (Comelec) supervisor in Pampanga, earlier said candidates violate the Fair Election Practices Act and its implementing rules and regulations found in Resolution No. 8758 when they nail, tie or hang campaign materials on trees or other objects included from the common poster area.

Section 22 of the resolution states: "A common poster area does not refer to a post, a tree, the wall of a building or an existing public structure that is in active use, but a structure ... that is temporarily set up by the candidates or political parties for the exclusive purpose of displaying their campaign posters."

Other violations

The head of DENR in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) region also appealed to politicians to spare trees.

"I appeal to all candidates not to injure trees," Nilo Tamoria, DENR-Calabarzon director, said in a statement sent to the Inquirer.

He said attaching election paraphernalia to trees is a violation of Presidential Decree No. 953 which prohibits destroying, damaging and injuring trees.

In a letter, he called on Comelec officials in the region to remind candidates about the prohibition.

Earlier, Tamoria also appealed to politicians to spare Sierra Madre as a source of their campaign funds. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



DON'T VOTE for candidates such as those who disregard campaign and environmental laws in their bid to spread their faces for voters to remember by, voters were advised by environmentalists and environment officials. Also beware of candidates who profess love for the environment but have no track record to speak of, the same officials advise voters.

Murders prompt Church leaders' prayer for polls

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—CHURCH LEADERS HAVE started to offer prayers for peaceful elections in the country following two separate murders that authorities said were politically motivated.

One of the murders took place almost at the doorstep of the Jaro archdiocese here, prompting Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to express alarm and issue an appeal for peaceful elections.

> 'This makes it all the more necessary to remind everybody ... to work for clean, honest, accountable, meaningful and peaceful election come May 10, 2010 ...'

In comment made in Bacolod City, Archbishop Joseph Edward Adams, Papal Nuncio in the Philippines, said he was praying for peaceful elections in the country.

The murder of Luis Mondia Jr., former mayor of Pulupandan, Negros Occidental, was too close for comfort to Lagdameo's church base. Mondia was shot by a lone gunman as he attended Ash Wednesday Mass near the Jaro Cathedral.

Mondia, 55, is running as an independent candidate against reelectionist Pulupandan Mayor Magdaleno Peña. He died at the [illegible] Mission Hospital where he was rushed after suffering multiple gunshot wounds during the attack.

Police are pointing to political rivalry as one of the most possible motives for the murder of Mondia.

The attack, said Supt. Ricardo Dumaic, could be the work of professional assassins.

At about the same time as the attack on Mondia, Dave Fred Hernani, village chief of Pinamalayan in Dalo, Bohol town and candidate for mayor, was gunned down as he drove his motorcycle.

Police said the murder's most likely motive was also politics.

"This makes it all the more necessary to remind everybody—candidates, voters and campaigners—to work for clean, honest, accountable, meaningful and peaceful election come May 10, 2010," said Archbishop Lagdameo.

"It is incumbent on everybody to make this election nonviolent and credible," the Church official said.

In Bacolod City, Archbishop Adams said he doesn't normally talk about politics in the Philippines, but that he was praying for peaceful elections in the country. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Dry spell forces water rationing in Iloilo City



Water sources

Low pressure

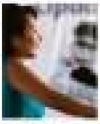
NEWSBRIEFS

■ ISABELA

2 mishaps, 5 dead

■ PANGASINAN

'Aeronautical highway'



PRESIDENT

■ BATAAN

Bus catches fire

■ NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

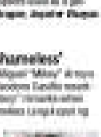
German help to continue

■ CEBU

Murder suspect falls

■ PAMPANGA

Mikey: I'm not 'shameless'



ARROYO

Prime lot sale by gov't worries Baguio execs



'It's the same kind of story when Luneta Hill was sold...'

INQUIRER Mindanao

National pride sails in ancient boats





Power shortage eases; Luzon exports to Visayas

Effects of dry spell

Call for everyone to help

Luzon power supply normal

Pantabangan has enough water for Ecija farms

By Riza T. Olchondra

Church seeks power summit

Tiger: My apology to Elin will come over time



CHASTENED AND CONTRITE. Tiger Woods pauses during Friday's news conference seen around the world.

Not easy to make amends

Apology to Elin

Golfers react

Major TV event

Mother speaks up

Return to Buddhism

In jail, Lim gets tips on how to run for Senate

Awareness

No sellout

Network of volunteers

Striking distance

NEWS

Once sickly child treks down Luzon for cancer kids

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—IT ALL STARTED with the dream of a sickly child.

Ternun Lozano, 28, of San Pedro, Laguna, has embarked on a journey on foot from Bugsukpod, Burra Norte, to Matnog, Sorsogon, a distance of 1,294 kilometers, to help create public awareness of the plight of young cancer victims and raise funds for their costly medication.

"I remembered my own childhood. I was sickly but I considered myself lucky compared to the suffering young cancer victims. Right there I made a vow to myself that I would help the kids. That I would walk for to gather enough attention and support to help them."

Lozano talked to the media here on Tuesday on the 30th day of his 50-day walk for a cause he has dubbed "Step Juan."

The walk, which started on Jan. 11, would have passed through 22 major cities and 150 towns by the time he gets to Matnog on March 1.

"The first step is always important. It is the start of something, of my own journey to help young Filipino cancer victims.

"Because I was always sick with asthma, I always dreamed of exploring the outdoors. I wanted to climb mountains, hike and travel around the country on foot. It was an old dream but it's now a reality," he said with a smile.

The "Step Juan" website (http://www.stepjuan.com/about.html) explains that the walk aims to raise funds for the treatment of cancer children under the Cancer Warriors Foundation.

The advocacy is supported by Lozano's friends and colleagues who share his vision.

"We are not just gathering together to start a media gimmick or to create a passing awareness for cancer. We are all volunteers who assemble towards a common working goal of curing children inflicted with cancer. The children we hope to assist are all from the Cancer Warriors Foundation, a nonprofit organization that offers treatment, assistance and care to children with cancer," the group says in the website.



COPS from Pagbilao escort Lozano on the Maharlika Highway.

Aplus METRO

Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday



THE ART OF TETADA KALIMASADA

Hands that heal, not harm


ACTRESS and healer Elizabeth Oropesa during a Kalimasada session: Taming heart and mind.

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

STRETCHING THEIR ARMS AND MOVING THEIR hands swiftly, instructors and students of the ancient Indonesian martial and healing art of Tetada Kalimasada aim to develop the skill of generating and using their "internal energy" not only to be able to heal themselves but other people as well.

"We are focused on healing and wellness," said instructor Geronimo Garcia. "The practice is focused on the generation of internal energy and its storage and utilization."

Overweight and saddled with sugar and cholesterol level problems, Garcia, 50, started practicing the art in 2000. During those years he often felt weak and got tired easily.

A friend asked him to join a group teaching and practicing Tetada Kalimasada in Quezon City.

Garcia, an industrial engineer who does consultancy work, continued attending the sessions until he became an instructor in the process. He lost more than 40 pounds and managed to keep his sugar level and blood pressure under control.

According to him, "inner energy" also circulates inside one's body. There are "energy centers" in the body that function like batteries and Tetada Kalimasada helps activate these energy centers, remove blocks and improve energy circulation, he added.

Humans all have inner energy. Children, for instance, have boundless energy, but as we grow old, the energy circulation is blocked, he said.

These blocks come from psy-

TURN TO A14



The art of Tetada Kalimasada: Hands that heal, not harm





2 workers die from toxic fumes of Pasig water tank

City Hall employee found dead in room

No response

10 NBI agents accused of extortion

MetroBriefs

Traffic rerouting on Edsa

QC mobile health centers

Aika Melendez's brother loses car to thieves

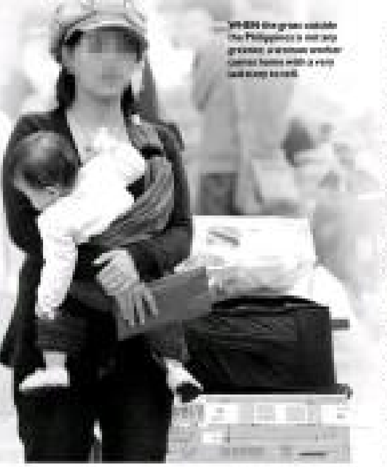
NEW BASKETBALL COVERED COURT





GLOBAL Pinoy

140 Pinays are slaves in Dubai



Bitter picture

Why they can't come home

P100-M repatriation fund

Meeting with OWWA

Review departure process



Can the US get more realistic in dealing with Filipino veterans?



IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco

Pattern of denials

2 common reasons

Secondary evidence

Almost impossible

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ziganay

Dutch government collapses over Afghan military mission

THE HAGUE—THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED on Saturday after coalition parties clashed over a Nato request to extend the Netherlands' military mission in Afghanistan, the prime minister said.

AFP

Texas pilot had shown few hints of his rage



STACK

NYT

After 8 years, FBI ends its probe in anthrax case

NYT

WorldBriefs

Niger coup leader silent on election timetable

Reuters

Diabetes drug harms heart, studies find

NYT

Minaret falls during prayers in Morocco; 36 dead

AP

US prof has no memory of shootings, says lawyer

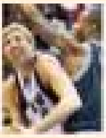
NYT

12 allied service members die in Afghan offensive

NYT

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Mavericks rally past Magic A27



SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvin S. Melendres
Assistant Editor: Francis T.J. Ochoa



■ Patriots try to sweep foes today A26

P'foods seeks clincher vs SMBeer

By Cedelf P. Tupas



Lee shines for Cobra; Excel Roof triumphs

By Cedelf P. Tupas



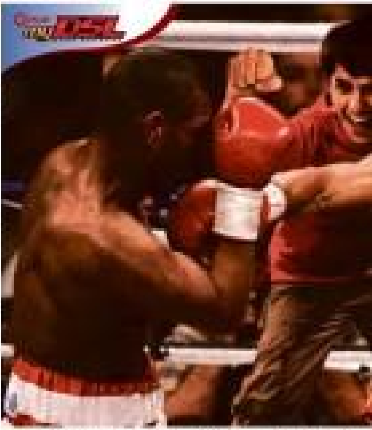
RP booters face Brazilians in Street Child World Cup

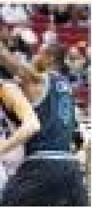


Patriots try to sweep foes today









Mavericks rally past Magic

Jamison a bust in Cavs debut; Wade-less Heat score



Jungolf: Gallardo, Legaspi forge thrilling wins

San Andres hammers out sweep

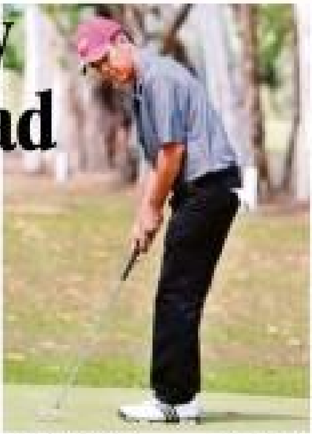


Tiu boosts bid for 7th straight title



Sunday SPORTS

Luisita barely keeps PAL lead



Nonito's a kind and generous fighter

IN HUDDLE



PAL Interclub Seniors scores (Day 3)

Two world junior tilts for RP jins


FUTURE STAR

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday Biz





VILLA Socorro's agri-eco village and farm resort provides a relaxing ambiance to its guests.

Retired exec offers escape from the city

By Karen Lapitan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PAGSANJAN, LAGUNA—Far from the corporate world that he used to rule, Marc Aaron, 58, now enjoys sharing the joy of living a simple rural life through his agri-eco village and farm resort here.

Instead of a formal suit and black leather shoes, he now often wears simple shirts, jeans and boots while enjoying the serenity of the place.

Aaron is a retired chief executive officer of Unilever Philippines' subsidiary Unilever Best Foods before he developed an 11-hectare land that he bought from his brother-in-law in 1997, which he later named Villa Socorro, after his wife.

"I was just looking for a place where I would retire, a place where I could age," he says.

Aaron adds that when he bought the land, he was thinking of some activities that would keep him busy after retirement.

The time he bought the 11-hectare land, he and his friends started planting a number of trees already, even the full-blast development had not started yet.

In 2004, he focused on developing the piece of land since that year signaled his retirement from work. At the age of 54, he became a budding entrepreneur.

Escape from the city

Villa Socorro agri-eco village and farm resort offers a relaxing escape from the busy metropolis.

Located at the foot of Sierra Madre and adjacent to Balanac River, Villa Socorro promises lush vegetation and ranch-style accommodation.

Guests are allowed to pick the fruits and vegetables in season, and have them for their meals, says Aaron.

The couple takes pride in the brand of hospitality they offer to their guests.

"This may not be the business I am familiar with when I was just starting, but we assured that guests get the experience they deserve. We consider each guest as a family guest."

"When there are guests coming here, we personally entertain them as much as we can," Aaron says, citing the same reason they do not accept walk-in clients.

They also encourage their children to meet the guests

RETIRED B2



GUESTS are allowed to pick fruits and vegetables in season.



Trader thrives on 'vested' interest



A VEST can have 10 pockets, with or without a hood, a cooling system, you can play around with the zippers, or put pockets for radio.



VEST maker Ding Navarro shows a few of the vests made by Paparazzi in Los Baños, Laguna, for the political candidates in the May elections.

The vest business thrives only during elections; during off-peaks, the sales come from consignments with gun stores

Paparazzi

Playing with colors

Back to hometown

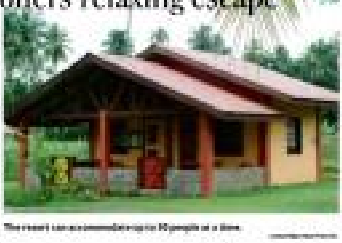


PAPARAZZI has a display of the vests at its store located along Lopez Ave., Batong Malake, Los Baños, Laguna.

Toy makers see joy in tech, green, classic

Retired exec offers relaxing escape from the city

From page B1



The resort can accommodate up to 50 people at a time.

Helping the community



Metaphors in Baguio's . . .

Sights and scents of Baguio flowers

Sunday Biz



TOP PRODUCTS and imaginative landscapes are on display at Burnham Park, courtesy of the annual Baguio Flower Festival Market Encounter.

Metaphors in Baguio's Market Encounter



THE STRAWBERRY lotion is one of the body-care products developed by Natural Metaphors.

By Maurice Malanes
Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A TALENTED CHILD'S search for healthier body care products for her allergy-sensitive skin eventually created a home-based industry, unexpectedly transforming her and her parents into accidental entrepreneurs.

One can discover this story among the more than 300 tent-covered business stalls at Burnham Park, in what has been packaged as "Market Encounter," a highlight of the yearly Panagbenga, a Feb. 1 to March 7 festival celebrating the blooming season of flowers in Baguio and Benguet.

During her teens, Melody Apugan found that her body was extra-sensitive to certain foods and to chemically laden and scented soaps. To deal with her food allergies, she simply shifted to organic diet.

But for her skin allergies to scented soaps, Apugan embarked on a scientific research on how to make alternative soaps and other body care products for her personal use.

She searched the Internet and books and consulted a chemist friend about how to make skin-friendly organic soaps. Her effort paid off.

She first made her own bath soap using strawberry and vegetable oil in 2006. She was then barely 14.

"She understands chemicals, enzymes and other substances very well like a pro," says Leora Jane Apugan, a parent and mother of Melody. Melody being a science buff (she was a science high school scholar) definitely helped her, says her mother.

Since then, Melody, aided by her parents, has been making her own bath soap, which proved excellent for her sensitive skin.

Consumer demand

During Christmas and other special occasions like weddings and birthday celebrations, Melody and her parents would offer their products as gifts to friends, relatives and church mates.

What proved helpful to Melody and her parents turned out to be effective for those who received the soaps as gifts. In no time, the gifts' recipients began making orders.

Melody and her parents had no choice but to produce and deliver the goods. But this time, the goods were no longer free gifts, but for sale. The Apugans have been thrust into business.

"We never intended to go into business," says the elder Apugan. "But we had to respond to the orders. The interesting thing about this venture is that it has become a business only after consumers created the demand. We see this as God working in strange, miraculous ways."

Natural metaphors

There was no turning back for the Apugans, who in late 2007 finally registered their products with a brand name Melody coined Natural Metaphors.

"I just love the word," says Melody, referring to metaphor. "It is interesting that we can understand many things through metaphors. The blind, for example, can understand the color white through the metaphor of the soft cotton."

She says her brand is also a metaphor for many consumers' desire for natural alternative products, which are friendly not only to people's bodies but to the environment as well.

With a business to establish first, Melody, now 18, has to temporarily quit her political science course as her planned stepping stone to a law degree.

"Every thing has its time," she says. "I can always continue my pre-law course and law degree once my baby [illegible] to the [illegible] we've [illegible] can take off on its own."

From the first bars of soap, which she used to make for her own use, Melody, aided by her parents and a chemist consultant, now makes an average of 2,000 pieces of 135-gram bath soaps each month at their home in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Retailed at P100 each, the soaps alone

METAPHORS B5



A LANDSCAPING competition adds life to the ongoing Market Encounter at Burnham Park.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ The elusive Nikki Teodoro /E1

Sunday LifeStyle Travel



Hispanic resort town fast shaping up in Bataan

Now open to guests, Ciudad Real de Acuzar has rebuilt 29 heritage houses, including the first UP School of Fine Arts





Hispanic res... fast shaping ... in Bataan



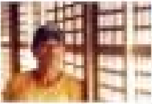




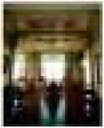
Travel

ort town p

















l perks

Traumatized woman plans to get married again—to a foreigner

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcos



> Succumbing to flings to fulfill youthful pleasures could spell more disaster

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Experience Corregidor—up in the air /E4

Sunday LifeStyle



Romance and chinoiserie—a perfect mix

How I attracted positive chi for the Valentine-tinged Chinese New Year



TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Impressive

12 animals









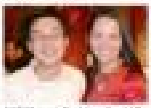




Romance and chinoiserie—a perfect mix

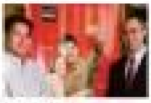
















Lucky colors

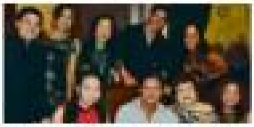
New promo















Spanish Embassy lauds professor's efforts in promoting Spanish language

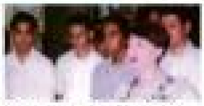
Cebu Cebu



Brighter future



French-Filipino bishop reunites with relatives in Manila



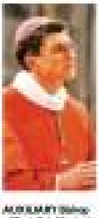
LIBRA Araneta-Santiago with students of Fatima University in 1999. [illegible] a reception for Bishop de Beaufort.

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Darang

Pinoys in Paris marvel at how Bishop Eric always talks about his Filipino roots



AUXILIARY Bishop of Paris Eric Marie de Moulins d'Amieu de Beaufort [illegible] roots to the Roxas y Arroyo family of Manila.

[illegible]

Family tree

[illegible]

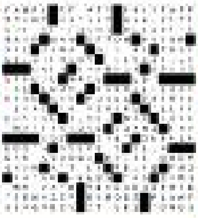
"Ganit Aral" bags

[illegible]

Lecture

[illegible]

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD





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Sunday LifeStyle

The elusive Nikki Teodoro



WORK MODE. Tarlac Rep. Nikki Teodoro





BEING GREEN. Teodoro wears her husband's campaign color at the Regional Presidential Dialogue at UP Diliman.

By Charlie V. Manzano

VERY FEW WOULD speak on record about her. Hopelessly elusive to the media, even her own mother needs to ask her permission to talk about her to media, whispered one who, of course, requested anonymity.

She's very attractive, that much we know, this one-time commercial model. Tall and svelte, rag would look couture on her back. She had a privileged upbringing, educated both in the US and Switzerland. In short, spotless on paper.

But just how much do Filipinos know about Monica Louise Prieto Teodoro—Nikki to family and friends, congresswoman of Tarlac's first district and potential Philippine first lady?

"She's a congresswoman, so she knows what she's talking about," said fashion designer Rajo Laurel of the wife of presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro, his client for four solid years.

"Once you get to know her, she has a lot to offer. Her mind and heart are in the right place. They (Teodoros) seriously want to serve the country."

Laurel first met Teodoro many years ago, when he was just an assistant to the designer Louis Mariano, and she was modeling for commercials. She was one of the iconic beauties of her generation, Laurel recalled.

Years later, he would be making the congresswoman's evening gowns, including her terno for the President's Sona.

"She knows what she wants," he describes his client. "She's very particular. She wants clothes that aren't flashy; she wants comfort and subtlety. She has a penchant for sober colors, but she's also open to ideas, so I try to influence her by suggesting brighter tones. She's tall, slim and gorgeous. It's a dream to dress her."

Asked how accurate the public's perception is of Teodoro as cagey and, perhaps, hard to relate to considering her elite background, he said: "I guess it's the [illegible] complex. She's not aloof. She's a human being. She grew up with means; you can't change that. It would be inauthentic to change that."

Inspiration

Laurel, great-grandson of wartime President Jose P. Laurel, said the country is in need of a first lady that will inspire the nation. His great-grandmother, Paciencia Hidalgo Laurel, whom he never met, was known for her frugality and quiet style, as evidenced by her surviving photos, said the young Laurel.

"Now is all about appropriateness. You want to be presentable at all times, but it takes common sense. You have to be sensitive to the plight of the nation. It may be generalizing, but the young are disturbed. We need someone to inspire the young, and the first lady should be a symbol of hope and change, an instrument to support her husband, like Michelle Obama and Carla Bruni. The elections are our opportunity to do good."

His one advice to potential first ladies? "Be true to themselves. A makeover isn't necessary; it's a little bit superficial. Everything they do should promote the Philippines and uplift it to the next level."

As for his client, Laurel added, "It's not a beauty contest; it's more than that. But if ever, what a beautiful first lady!"



IN FULL COLOR. In a pink terno for President Arroyo's State of the Nation Address in 2007, and in a blue one (far left) in 2009

'It's a dream to dress her' —Rajo Laurel



CASUAL TUESDAY. In jeans and tank top for a breakfast press conference, shortly after her husband proclaimed his candidacy last [illegible]

Fashion house pays tribute to Michael Jackson









Timepiece, book, exhibit—all in honor of Cory Aquino







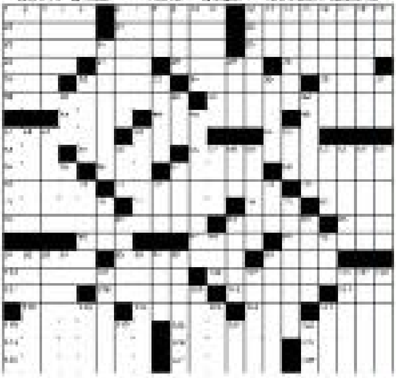


Themes

Yellow paintings

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo



GMA, Imelda headline new Rupert Jacinto photo book, exhibit



IMELDA Marcos



GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo

PHOTOGRAPHER RUPERT JACINTO is launching a coffee-table book, "Rushdolese," with a photo exhibit at Peninsula Manila on Feb. 23.

Guests of honor are President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, with other "Rushdolese" icons Imelda Romualdez Marcos, Dewi Sukarno, Imelda Cojuangco, Loida Nicolas Lewis, Hedy Tantoco, Betsy Westendorp de Brias and Ann Foley.

The book and exhibit theme is "Old Hollywood glamour." Printed in one-tone black and white, the book features 100 portraits, shot at venues such as the magnificent Goldenberg Mansion in Malacañang complex and the stately residence of Corry Cuenca.

In partnership with the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, the project aims to support the Love-A-Parish Program of the Sto. Niño de Paz of Greenbelt Chapel under its chaplain, Fr. Jun Jaranas. The Love-A-Parish program assists needy churches all over the country.

The title "Rushdolese" is borrowed from The Washington Post's headline of its interview with Jacinto: "Rupert Jacinto: Photographer to the Rushdolese." The exhibit displays is by Jen Jun Ablaza, with Mari One Productions as exhibit program planner.

Among Jacinto's photo subjects have been a Vanderbilt, a Rockefeller, a Gucci, Countess Chandon of Moet & Chandon, and members of New York high society such as Nan Kempner, Caroll Petrie, Jean Tailer and Ivana Trump, and royal women—Princess Chantal of France and Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia.

Visit www.rupertjacinto.com or e-mail inceptio@yahoo.com.



ANN FLYNN



RUPERT Jacinto



DIVINE Lee



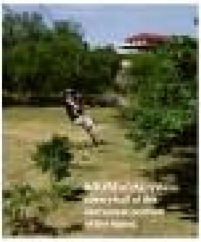
CRIS Albert

Experience Corregidor–up in the air

The new zip-line attraction allows visitors to see the historic island in a new way







Flying through the air

ENTERTAINMENT

Meet, greet, fall in love!





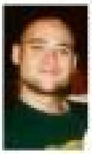
Vicky Morales and the lotto winner who squandered ₱80M



By Bayani San Diego Jr.

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Julie sings again – but not like before

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Working with Hitchcock

Missing the theater stage



JULIE as Mary Poppins

ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar's dark side: H'wood loves a bad, even crazy, boy



CHRISTOPHER Waltz is a smooth-talking [illegible] in "Inglourious Basterds"

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD LOVES a bad boy, and so does Oscar, with academy voters nominating several roles this year that are less than cordial, if not downright crazy.

There's Christopher Waltz for his chilling performance as smooth-talking, Jew-hunting Nazi Col. Hans Landa in "Inglourious Basterds"; Stanley Tucci for his scary, blue-eyed turn as pedophile George Harvey in "The Lovely Bones"; and Mo'Nique for her role as Mary Jones, the abusive mother in "Precious."

So what is it about iniquitous villains that [illegible] and members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences find so compelling?

"I think we take a [illegible] pleasure in the [illegible] that they [illegible], in the pain that they inflict, and the [illegible] that they suffer at some point," says Stephen Lang, who plays the vengeful, [illegible] military officer Miles Quaritch in "Avatar."



STANLEY Tucci in "The Lovely Bones"

In 1932, Fredric March won Best Actor for "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." And who can forget Louise Fletcher's winning role as the cold-hearted "Nurse Ratched" in 1975's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"?

Heath Ledger won [illegible] Oscar last year for his [illegible] role as the Joker in "The Dark Knight." Another bad guy, Javier Bardem's [illegible] Anton Chigurh in "No Country for Old Men," took the same prize [illegible].

Daniel Day-Lewis won Best Actor in 2007 for his [illegible] performance as ruthless, murderous oil man in "There Will Be Blood" [illegible] Forest Whitaker won the [illegible] for his [illegible] Idi Amin Dada in "The Last King of Scotland."

Waltz says it was tough to play Hans Landa, a character for whom "good and evil are categories that are not really all that relevant to his life."

Tucci, meanwhile, was afraid yet intrigued about taking on the role of the murderous pedophile in "The Lovely Bones."

"It's everything that you kind of hate and fear, and for that reason, it's interesting to dive into it," he says. AP



MO'NIQUE is an abusive mom in "Precious."



'Ellen factor' kicks in on 'American Idol'

VIEWFINDER



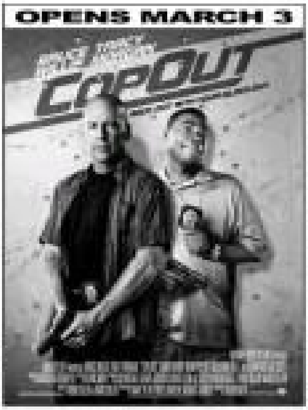
Nestor U. Torre



ELLEN DeGeneres



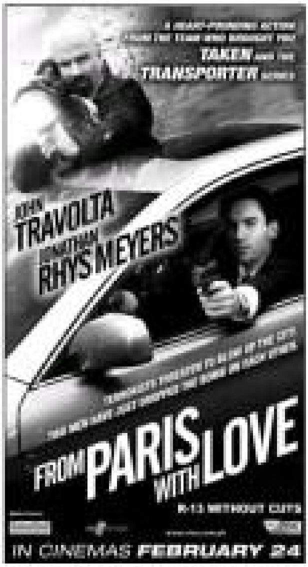


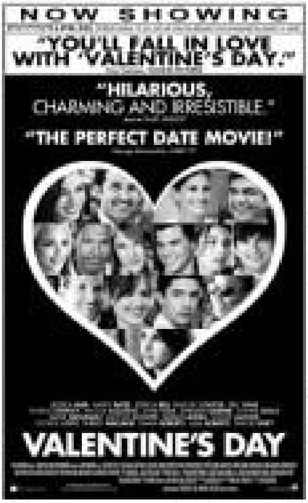


The incredulous Myrus

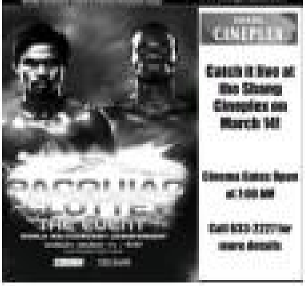


MYRUS









Pinoys in Berlin: Waiting for Lav

Why Diaz's work was exhibited in German film school



Still solid, side-splitting '30 Rock'







Simon: 9th 'Idol' will be a girl

'Relevant' Grammy winner Lady Gaga tops his mentor wish list this year





LADY GAGA

Relevant

What about Ellen?

ENTERTAINMENT



‘Everyone’s doing it but no one admits it’

Even the most likely to shine are far from perfect; talent managers should know how to enhance what they have

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ON THE SET OF THE NEW GMA 7 series, “Diva,” lead star Regine Velasquez said the new drama-comedy takes an unflinching look at the “making of a star,” which often includes cosmetic surgery.

Velasquez said: “Everyone is doing it.

EVERYONE’S P2

REGINE Velasquez




Dear John
sets records!
DEAR JOHN


INFESTATION


BACKSTREET BOYS LIVE IN MANILA!
FREE 2010
PLANNER

They're not joining TV5–for now









NOW SHOWING





EDSA I AND EDSA II: TRIUMPH AND DEFEAT





Chicago: It could have been a perfect gig



ORIGINAL member Lee Loughnane plays the flugelhorn.

By Pocholo Concepcion

IT COULD'VE BEEN A PERFECT gig, with the band's trademark horn section [illegible]

[illegible]

REVIEW

Also a veteran

[illegible]



GUITARIST Keith Howland



BEST-[illegible] Robert Lamm

[illegible]

Pankow power

[illegible]



JAMES Pankow, [illegible]





